

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 03663 290556Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----094324 290558Z /21
O 290520Z AUG 77
FM MAMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9342

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 3663

EXDIS

FOR NEA/ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, NP
SUBJ: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
KOIRALA

REF: A) STATE 203186, B) KATHMANDU 3647
C) STATE 151752

1. KOIRAL INTERVIEW ON MACNEIL LEHER PROGRAM
REPORTED RE A HAS HELPED CRYSTALLIZE MY THINKING ON
TRICKY QUESTION OF HOW WE QHOULD DEAL WITH B.P.
KOIRALA. HAVING WRESTLED WITH THIS QUESTION SINCE MY
ARRIVAL, I AM NOW SATISFIED THA HE CLEARLY STANDS
OUT AS KEY FIGURE AND BEST HOPE OF DEMOCRATIC
FORCES IN NEPAL TO EVOLVE SOME KIND OF
MORE REPRESENTATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL
INSTITUTIONS IN NEPAL. I CONCLUDE THEREFORE IT WOULD
BE IN OUR LONG-RANGE INTERESTS FOR KOIRALA TO SEE THE
PRESIDENT NOT WITHSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS IN REF C.
I SO RECOMMEND, ASSUMING OF COURSE THAT
B.P. IS STILL IN US AND AVAILABLE.

2. IF THIS MEETING WERE TO TAKE PLACE IT WOULD
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PROVIDE STRONG REACTION BY HMG AND WOULD
UNDOUBTEDLY UPSET PALACE ELEMENTS DETERMINED NOT
TO SHARE POWER WITH POLITICIANS. I THINK THIS REACTION
IS CONTAINABLE AND ONE WE COULD LIVE WITH.

3. ADVANTAGES OF SUCH MOVE OUTWIDIEGH DISADVATNAGESS.
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR

HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE AND OBJECTIVES, IT WOULD PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT TO DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN NEPAL WHICH IN THIS COUNTRY WHERE PARTIES ARE BANNED ARE CURRENTLY AT A DISADVANTAGE IN COMPETING FOR POPULAR SUPPORT WITH COMMUNIST GROUPS WORKING UNDERGROUND, IT WOULD HONOR PERSON WHO IN NEPAL HAS STATUS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT ENJOYED BY JAYAPRAKSH NARAYAN IN INDIA. MOST IMPORTANT, IT COULD ACTUALLY HELP KING IN COMING TO DECISION HE FACES SHORTLY ON HOW TO DEAL WITH B.P. WHEN HE RETURNS.

4. ON LAST POINT, IT IS SAFE TO ASSUME THAT HARD LINE PALACE FORCES ARE URGING KING TO PUT KOIRALA BACK IN JAIL WHEN HE RETURNS. I CAME AWAY FROM MY FIRST AUDIENCE WITH KING (KATHMANDU 3642) WITH IMPRESSION HE WAS WAVERING. MEETING WITH PRESIDENT COULD STRENGTHEN KING'S HAND. AT MINIMUM IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR KING TO PUT KOIRALA BACK IN JAIL.

5. IN SHORT, SUCH A MEETING SEEMS TO BE THE RIGHT THING TO DO BOTH AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR OBJECTIVE OF ENCOURAGING MORE REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS IN NEPAL.

6. IF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CANNOT BE ARRANGED, PERHAPS PRESIDENT COULD TELEPHONE KOIRALA.

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I UNDERSTAND HE SPOKE TO JAYAPRAKASH IN THIS MANNER DURING LATTER'S RECENT VISIT TO US. HECK

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NNN

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